CHICKASAW TIMES

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Young ladies to vie for royal titles during Princess Pageant Oct. 1

ADA, Okla. – Three young Chickasaw women will soon be crowned 2012-2013 Chickasaw Royalty.

The Chickasaw Princess Pageant will begin at 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 1 at the Ada High School Cougar Activity Center.

Contestants will vie for one of three titles. Chickasaw Princess candidates are 17 to 25 years of age; Chickasaw Junior Princess contestants are ages 12 to 16; and Little Miss Chickasaw candidates are ages seven to 11.

During the pageant candidates will be judged on traditional Chickasaw dress, poise and random question. Candidates will also compete in the talent category. Past featured talents have included singing, stomp dancing and storytelling.

The newly-crowned royalty will have the honor and privilege of serving as Chickasaw Nation ambassadors at various functions and events across several states.

"Crowning the new Chickasaw princesses is always a time of strong emotions as the current princesses pass the torch to the newly crowned royalty," Gov. Bill Anoatubby said. "Our Chickasaw Princesses serve as bearers of culture and goodwill ambassadors for the Chickasaw people."

The Chickasaw princesses have been making appearances for many years. The heritage of the princesses goes back to 1963 when Ranell (James) Harry was appointed the first Chickasaw Princess.

The 2011-2012 Chickasaw royalty are Chickasaw Princess Nacobi Walker; Chickasaw Jr. Princess Raechell Meely; and Little Miss Chickasaw Keilyn Factor.

These young ladies will be honored for their year of service during the ceremony.

Everyone is welcome to attend the pageant. The pageant is free and no ticket is required.

For more information about the Chickasaw Princess Pageant, call (580) 272-5508.

2012 - 2013 Chickasaw Princess Candidates

Dancing Star Frazier
Chickasaw Princess Candidate

Hagen LeFors
Chickasaw Princess Candidate

Autumn Underwood
Chickasaw Princess Candidate

Taylor Robertson
Chickasaw Junior Princess Candidate

Kacie Seeley
Chickasaw Junior Princess Candidate

Caitlynn Sparlin
Chickasaw Junior Princess Candidate

Krysten Wallace
Chickasaw Junior Princess Candidate

Chelsea Wedlow
Chickasaw Junior Princess Candidate

Lauren Key
Little Miss Chickasaw Candidate

Cydnee Miller
Little Miss Chickasaw Candidate

Payton Robertson
Little Miss Chickasaw Candidate

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Chickasaw Princess Candidates

Dancing Star Frazier

Fichik Hita (Dancing Star) Frazier

Fichik Hita (Dancing Star) Frazier is the 19-year-old daughter of George and Sonya Frazier.

"Why I would like to be Chickasaw Princess"

Chokma! Hello, my name is Fichik Hita (Dancing Star) Frazier.

I am the daughter of George and Sonya Frazier. I am the older sister of Little Sky, Geordana, Jalen and Jacob Frazier. I graduated from Ada High School and I currently work full time at the Chickasaw Nation Child Development Center where I help teach two-year-olds their Chickasaw colors and numbers.

One of my hobbies is playing softball on the weekends and I play the position of catcher for my family team. I enjoy spending time with my family. I have volunteered countless hours at the Chickasaw Nation Drug Elimination program where I have helped kids learn there is more in life than drugs.

The reason I would like to become your next Chickasaw Princess is to have the opportunity to teach my peers and youth of the Chickasaw Nation about our culture and traditions. I have worked with my elders or learning about the culture and tradition as a Chickasaw citizen.

I would like to show the young Chickasaw girls and ladies that as a Chickasaw Princess you do not have to give up your culture or tradition, and that if you put your heart to it, you can be anything you want to be.

Becoming an ambassador would help further the education to my knowledge of the Chickasaw Nation.

I would be honored to represent the Chickasaw Nation as the 2012-2013 Chickasaw Princess, and would like to thank you for the opportunity to run for such a title.

Chokma'shki,

Fichik Hita (Dancing Star) Frazier

Hagen LeFors

Hagen LeFors

Hagen Faith LeFors is the 24-year-old daughter of Pastor Gary and Cheryl Weeden. She attends Murray State College, Tishomingo, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Chickasaw Princess"

Chokma! My name is Hagen LeFors.

I am the daughter of Pastor Gary and Cheryl Weeden. I am from the little town of Coalgate, Okla., and currently reside in Ada, Okla., to work my way through college. My major of choice is Early Childhood Education.

My dream and goal in life is to become the best role model for young kids, and to become a preschool teacher. I would like the opportunity to be Chickasaw Princess for numerous reasons, but two main reasons: I would like the opportunity to learn more of who I am as a Chickasaw individual; and second, I would like to teach what I learn about my tribe and represent my tribe in a way that it speaks to the younger generations.

As I was growing up I spent my time after school with my famous Meme (grandmother) and Papa (grandfather). My Meme had her ways of teaching the family how to speak the Choctaw language. My Papa and Meme, being the caring people they have always been, would bring foster children into their home and we would all learn together. Every time we would have a family gathering or just us around the table we would learn new words and phrases and the occasional hymn before we ate. I have learned many life lessons from my family and would love to learn more of my Chickasaw side. I have worked for the Chickasaw Nation for eight years and have learned a handful of things, but my heart's desire is to learn more.

One of my goals is to become a preschool teacher. I had the opportunity to work with the younger kids as a teacher's assistant at the Chickasaw Nation Child Development Center for three years. I am working towards a goal to teach in the public school system. This past summer, my sister and I traveled to Florida to visit a dear friend of the family who is a fourth-grade teacher. She has become a new role model of mine. She has the passion to help her students achieve success and loves the opportunity to serve. She has chosen to teach at a school that is in a low-income area to embrace the challenge. As Sitting Bull said "Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children."

I am excited for the opportunity to represent my Chickasha people! Eagerly I look forward to traveling and learning. I am thrilled at the possibilities of taking part in the Chickasha princess adventure!

Autumn Underwood

Autumn Underwood

Autumn Michelle Underwood is the 18-year-old daughter of Michael Underwood and Loraine Weems. She is a senior at Latta High School, Ada, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Chickasaw Princess"

Chokma! My name is Autumn Underwood and I am an 18-year-old senior at Latta High School. I have been given many opportunities such as Mechanical Mastermind and Metal Mayhem robotics teams and Chickasha Apichi Ikbi through the Chickasaw Nation. These programs have taught me leadership, teamwork, strong moral values, respect and role model skills. Without these programs I would not be the strong, independent and confident young woman I am today.

These experiences have provided me with great community outreach situations. I was blessed to be able to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. In this situation I gave back to my community leaving me with a sense of pride and accomplishment because I knew I made an impact on a family by providing them with a new home to start fresh a new beginning as a family. That memory stays with me and reminds me of what it really means to be Chickasaw, to help others and enhance others lives. I sincerely hope I will get to channel new ways of connecting with other Chickasaw citizens as an active Chickasaw Princess.

Becoming a Chickasaw Princess would provide me with new learning experiences in which I can gain knowledge about my heritage and traditions. I am very proud of the unconquered Chickasaw People past and present. I admire their strength and spirit. Because of them, I want to make a difference in the world by becoming a positive and strong role model. Younger generations need to see that anything is possible through hard work, dedication, determination, family support and self-confidence.

For these reasons I submit my candidacy for the Chickasaw Princess with the hope and desire that you will consider me a good representative for the Chickasaw Nation. I promise that if I am chosen, I will represent the Chickasaw Nation with pride, integrity and dignity.

Chickasaw Junior Princess Candidates

Taylor Robertson

Taylor Robertson

Taylor Nicole Robertson is the 14-year-old daughter of Steven and Michelle Robertson. She is in the ninth grade at Ada Junior High School, Ada, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Chickasaw Junior Princess"

Chokma, I am Taylor Robertson and I come from a family of five.

I am active in church and an Ada Junior High School cheerleader. I played in the band at my local church until a band passing through played for several months. I picked up a guitar and learned how to play on my own. I take vocal lessons at the McSwain Theatre and tumble.

I am a very determined person. My grades and cheerleading are my top priorities and the things I strive to do my best in.

I want to be Chickasaw Junior Princess because it gives me the opportunity to know more about our people, culture and our language.

To be a part of my culture in this way would be amazing! Giving me the chance to do so would bring me closer to my Chickasaw culture.

Devoting my time to this would be an honor. I want to bring more pride to our nation in any way possible. **(More Junior Princess information, Page 4.)**

Kacie Seeley

Kacie Seeley

Kacie Cheyenne Seeley is the 14-year-old daughter of Justin Seeley and Stephanie John Scott. She is in the ninth grade at Ada Junior High School, Ada, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Chickasaw Junior Princess"

Chokma!

My name is Kacie Cheyenne Seeley and I am a freshman at Ada Junior High School, Ada, Okla. I am the daughter of Justin Seeley and Stephanie John Scott, both Chickasaw citizens. I am the granddaughter of Bernie and Velma Seeley and Luther and Norma John, and the great-granddaughter of Dorothy Green, all fluent speakers of the Chickasaw language.

To be chosen as Chickasaw Junior Princess would give me a great opportunity to serve my tribe and community while at the same time teaching others about Chickasaw culture.

I often get questions from fellow classmates about Native Americans and how we are different. I tell them about my tribe's original home which was in Mississippi and how they were forced to walk the Trail of Tears to Oklahoma. Being able to share what I know about my tribe to others has taught me to

Caitlynn Sparlin

Caitlyn Sparlin

Caitlynn Marie Sparlin is the 13-year-old daughter of Joseph Sparlin II and Clarice Monetathchi-Shirley. She attends the eighth grade at Tishomingo Middle School, Tishomingo, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Chickasaw Junior Princess"

Chokma,

I am Caitlynn Sparlin, daughter of Jay and Clarice Shirley and Joe Sparlin. I am the granddaughter of Delores Monetathchi and Rance and Annette Biggs. I am 13 years old and I am in the eighth grade at Tishomingo Middle School.

I am involved in many activities. I am a middle school cheerleader and STUCO secretary. I am involved in track and my favorite sport is softball. I play for the eighth-grade softball team and also play tournament softball. I also like to sing. My other hobbies include singing, swimming, reading, tumbling and pestering my brothers.

I have a big family and I love to spend time with them. I am the only girl and I have three brothers. We do many things together. I try to do my best in everything I do to make my family proud. Every year we get together at the annual Underwood-Hamilton Reunion. That

Krysten Wallace

Krysten Wallace

Krysten Rachelle Wallace is the 14-year-old daughter of Jason Wayne Wallace and Kristi Michelle Poe-Wallace. She attends the eighth grade at Ada Junior High School, Ada, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Chickasaw Junior Princess"

Hallito

Saholhchifoat Krysten Wallace. Anchokka-chaffat Ada-ako and Pontotoc aaminti.

If I was chosen to be the 2012-2013 Chickasaw Junior Princess it would be such a great honor not only for me but for my family as well. I would be given the opportunity to be a role model for other Chickasaw girls and for girls who attend school with me. It would be a great learning experience for me to be able to travel, meet new people, and gain understanding about different tribes while representing the Chickasaw Nation.

I have always wanted to learn more about my heritage and culture. This would give me the chance to gain more knowledge about my history and Chickasaw traditions. My family has always told me that if I put my mind to something that I can do anything. Just to be able to run for Chickasaw Junior Princess has been one of my goals since I was little.

Chelsea Wedlow

Chelsea Wedlow

Chelsea Lynn Wedlow is the 13-year-old daughter of Maceo Wedlow and Rachel (Stick) Wedlow. She attends the eighth grade at Allen Public School, Allen, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Chickasaw Junior Princess"

Chokma, my name is Chelsea Lynn Wedlow, but my friends and family call me Sissy. I am 13 years old and in the eighth grade at Allen School.

The things I like to do are play softball, basketball, cheer, sing in the church choir and take pictures.

I attend church at Boiling Springs UMC.

Being a Chickasaw Nation princess is more to me than just a crown and sash - it's a job! I understand it's my responsibility to teach others about my culture, language and to be a role model for young people. My family has taught me when I speak and sing I am doing it for the Elders and my ancestors. I work hard and try my best in all my activities.

I would like the opportunity to meet new people and see different places. I believe I could represent our Nation with honesty and in a respectful way. If I am chosen to be princess I will make my Nation proud.

Little Miss Chickasaw Candidates

Lauren Key

Lauren Key

Lauren Paige Key is the eight-year-old daughter of Joshua and Summer (Jones) Key. She is in the third grade at Francis Elementary School, Francis, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Little Miss Chickasaw"

My name is Lauren Paige Key. I am eight years old and a third grader at Francis Elementary School. My parents are Joshua and Summer Key, of Ada. I have three sisters and one brother.

Ever since I have gone to the Chickasaw Head Start watching the Princesses at our events I enjoyed every minute and had the desire to run when I got old enough. I am so excited that I could represent the Nation, getting that opportunity to learn more not only about my Chickasaw heritage, but other tribes as well. I am a little shy, but I feel that I would try my best. I think this experience would encourage me to do even more than what I do now.

Being a princess gives you the opportunity to explore out of the box and meet new people and learn more about the Chickasaw heritage.

Cydnee Miller

Cydnee Miller

Cydnee Rese Miller is the eight-year-old daughter of Rick and Sherri (Hamilton) Miller. She is in the third grade at Washington Elementary School, Ada, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Little Miss Chickasaw"

My name is Cydnee Rese Miller. I am the eight-year-old daughter of Rick and Sherri Miller and I am in the third grade at Washington Elementary, Ada.

I would like to become the 2012-2013 Little Miss Chickasaw because it would be an honor and privilege to represent the Chickasaw Nation and its citizens. I take great pride in being a proud citizen of the Chickasaw Nation and given the opportunity to serve I would represent the Chickasaw Nation with the upmost pride, dignity and respect. This would also give me an opportunity to meet new people and make new friendships as I love meeting new people everywhere I go.

Thank you for your time and consideration for the 2012-2013 Little Miss Chickasaw.

Payton Robertson

Payton Robertson

Payton Elise Robertson is the eight-year-old daughter of Steven and Destiny Robertson. She is in the third grade at Washington Elementary School, Ada, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Little Miss Chickasaw"

Chokma! My name is Payton Robertson. I have three sisters and one brother. My parents are Stephen Robertson and Nikki Robertson. My favorite thing in the whole world is math, riding my bike and playing my violin.

I want to be Little Miss Chickasaw because I would like to get involved in my culture. I want to explore the world while I am representing the Chickasaw Nation. I would also like to be in Pow Wows because I like to dance in them.

I have seen other Chickasaw Princesses and I always thought they were pretty and graceful. I have wanted to be one ever since. I would love to represent the Chickasaw Nation as a princess and make my family and the Chickasaw Nation proud! If I had the opportunity to be princess, I would do my best to my duties. I really would like to be the Little Miss Chickasaw.

Yakoke!

Payton Robertson

TAYLOR ROBERTSON | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

I am a hard worker. I'll do what it takes to get there.

Working at DJK Enterprises and just having a job changes your perspective and how to take care of yourself. I'm glad I got the chance to take part in that.

I would like to show you my skills and what I am capable of. I would be thankful if you allowed me to represent you as your Chickasaw Princess!

Taylor Robertson

KACIE SEELEY | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

be proud of who I am and how I want to continue learning more about the Chickasaw culture.

I also hope to follow in my mother's footsteps and become a tribal storyteller. So given the opportunity to serve as Chickasaw Junior Princess will help me in my future endeavors.

As we continue our journey into the 21st century, numerous cultures are losing their identities. I am proud to say that our tribe has been successful in preserving our culture with programs such as the princess pageant and the master/apprentice language program.

To be able to have programs such as these ensures that the Chickasaw Nation will always be here for future generations. In closing, if I am chosen to represent my tribe as Chickasaw Junior Princess, I promise to perform my duties to the best of my ability with pride, grace and humility.

Yakokey!

Kacie Cheyenne Seeley

CAITLYNN SPARLIN | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

is my favorite part of the summer because I get to spend time with all my family.

I would be honored to be the 2012-2013 Chickasaw Junior Princess. If I were chosen to be the Chickasaw Junior Princess I want to be a role model and set a good example.

I think that being Chickasaw Junior Princess is much more than a title. It tells people who may not know who we are, that we are a strong and beautiful nation. When I was 2006-2007 Little Miss Chickasaw, I did my best to represent the Chickasaw people and make them proud. I loved the experience of visiting and learning from my elders, the opportunity to serve was very enjoyable.

If I were chosen to be the 2012-2013 Chickasaw Junior Princess it would again be an honor to represent the powerful and strong people who make this nation unconquered and unconquerable.

KRYSTEN WALLACE | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

So, if I was chosen to be the next Chickasaw Junior Princess then it would be such a great honor for me. This year I'm running in honor of a well-known and respected elder of the Chickasaw Nation my great-grandmother, Pauline Walker. If chosen to be the Chickasaw Junior Princess I will wear the crown and sash with honor, respect and dignity. Anowa chipisala'cho!

Yakkookay Krysten Wallace